

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth, Wes Moore, and James McIlroy. Others present were: Police Chief Reed, Ray Buxton, Vern Glass, Cathy Nelson Smith, and Reuben Hull.

Chief Reed advised that the stop sign at the intersection of Deertrees and Finn Avenue was run over by a hit and run driver and needs to be replaced. This occurred between 9:30pm and 10:00pm on Sunday, July 15th. Nancy was asked to notify the Road Agent that the sign needs to be replaced. Also, Chief Reed is looking to have the Police Department parking sign re-installed at the Town Hall.

Chief Reed spoke with a representative of the New Hampshire Department of Safety in Concord and was advised that a Hazardous Mitigation Plan must be in place if Newfields is looking to receive any further funds from FEMA or the State. The Selectmen will speak with the Town Planner tonight about obtaining a template, making recommendations, and returning to the Selectmen with his suggestions.

Chief Reed advised that part-time police officer Mark Gosselin resigned. He attended the part-time academy, but did not complete his training hours.

The Chief advised that oral boards were held on Monday and that more will be held later on this week.

Chief Reed advised that he needs an Animal Control Officer. The department receives about 100 calls per year. There is no RSA that requires a town to have an Animal Control Officer. This position pays for time worked and mileage only. The Chief is looking into the possibility of sharing one Animal Control Officer with Newmarket and Stratham. The benefit is the sharing of costs for training and uniforms. The pay will remain on a pay per call basis only. He will report back to the Selectmen at a later date.

Ray Buxton, Vern Glass, and Cathy Nelson Smith met with the Selectmen to discuss the detail invoice which the Water and Sewer Department received from the Police Department for details worked at the recent water pipe break. Ray feels the invoice for \$912. 00 is excessive. He checked with other towns and finds that Epping charges \$25.00 per hour for details for the Water and Sewer Department and the Highway Department. Stratham charges \$45.00 per hour, Exeter does not have details – they use

flagmen. Ray feels the townspeople are being charged twice – once by way of the taxes they pay, and then again for the police detail.

Chief Reed stated that he did not charge the Water Department the current detail rate (they were charged the old rate) and did not charge for four hours of coverage. The actual charge should have been \$1,300.00 rather than the \$912.00 actually invoiced. He also explained that paying the detail rate is less expensive than paying time and a half.

Vern asked why Town Departments are charged the same as outside businesses. He feels that Town Departments should work to the benefit of all. There was discussion that if the entire town was served by the Water and Sewer Department there would not be any charge for the details.

Chief Reed stated that he and Lt. Gould donated time for the details at the Memorial Day Celebration. However, they do charge the Celebration Committee for the details needed for the Christmas Parade at a rate of time and a half. The Water & Sewer Department is not being singled out – any Town Department requiring details will be charged.

Wes asked the Chief what part of the invoice is negotiable. The Chief feels the cruiser fee can be waived (\$10.00 per hour). However, the officer fee and the administration fee must remain in place. He also stated that if the Sheriff's Department or State Police are used for details, the cost is much higher. That is why he tries to use Newfields Officers for Town Department details.

James asked Ray, Vern, and Cathy if a \$10.00 reduction per hour is acceptable. Ray stated that no charge would be ideal, but he understands it cannot be free. The Water and Sewer Commissioners agreed to accept a refund of \$190.00 for the Main Street water break detail and will not be charged for the cruiser in the future.

Cathy asked that in the future, detours for the bridge be made down Hilton Avenue instead of Pleasant Street. It is difficult for tractor-trailers to make the horseshoe turn onto Pleasant Street without driving on and damaging the lawns of the residents.

It was agreed by all that Routes 87 and 85 are too dangerous for flaggers and must have police details. Other streets in Town that are being worked on will require details based on a case by case basis.

Ray informed the Selectmen that the Water and Sewer Department has just signed an Agreement with the State for the bond on the well #7 project.

Reuben Hull was advised by the Selectmen that the Town now needs a Hazardous Mitigation Plan in place in order to continue receiving State and/or FEMA funds from this point forward. Reuben was asked to contact the Rockingham Planning Commission for assistance in putting a plan in place – what is required, is there a boilerplate plan available to towns, etc.? Reuben agreed to look into this and report back to the Selectmen. Chief Reed volunteered to give his contact information to Reuben for his use.

Wes has called the bricklayer several times and has not heard back from him. Wes will continue trying to reach the bricklayer for a firm date to install the new portion of the walkway and to repair the walkway already in place at the Town Hall.

Reuben stated he spoke with the welder that Wes recommended for the handrail and they will be meeting at the Town Hall later this week to review the requirements. This welder appears to be more flexible with the handrail plans and offered suggestions in the construction to reduce the price. Chief Reed suggested that Starkey Welding in Brentwood also be contacted for pricing.

Reuben met with a developer to review a conceptual plan for land next to the Route 108 cemetery.

Reuben will have a construction fence erected around the ramp area at the Town Hall.

Checks were signed.

Two Land Use Change Tax Invoices were signed.

The Project Reports on the Piscassic Greenway were signed.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Safety Project Application for the recent FEMA payment to the Town was signed by James and Chief Reed.

The Exeter Regional Cooperative School District Assessment 07-08 was reviewed.

The letter from the Planning Board to the Route 108 abutters was reviewed.

Correspondence from Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

The list of Matters To Be Resolved from auditors Plodzik & Sanderson was reviewed. Most of the information required will be obtained from The Trust For Public Lands, Southeast Land Trust of NH, and attorney Fran Lane.

An abutter to the Deertrees Homeowners Association received notification that hunting would no longer be permitted on their land and the abutter questions if the restriction is allowed under the easement. Reuben Hull has a few additional documents to review before a final determination can be made.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2007 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer